

Iowa Department of Human Services
Notice of Public Comment Period for Changes in the Iowa Health and Wellness Plan

The Iowa Health and Wellness Plan, that began on January 1, 2014, is a Medicaid program created to provide comprehensive health care coverage to low-income, uninsured Iowans ages 19 to 64.

The Iowa Health and Wellness Plan is one program that includes two separate coverage options. Eligibility is based on household income.

- *Iowa Wellness Plan*: Covers adults ages 19 to 64 whose income is at or below 100 percent of the Federal Poverty Level. The Iowa Wellness Plan is administered by Iowa Medicaid. Members have access to the statewide Medicaid provider network which means they have access to care from providers and hospitals in their local communities.
- *Marketplace Choice Plan*: Covers adults age 19 to 64 with income from 101 percent through 133 percent of the Federal Poverty Level. The Marketplace Choice Plan allows members to select from participating commercial health care coverage plans available through the Health Insurance Marketplace. Medicaid pays the premiums to the commercial health plan on behalf of the member. Members have access to the network of local health care providers and hospitals served by the commercial insurance plan.

Benefits of the Iowa Health and Wellness Plan are based on the state employees' commercial health insurance plan and do not contain the extensive benefits traditionally associated with Medicaid under the State Plan. This commercial approach specifically excluded non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT). The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) granted the state a waiver of NEMT through December 31, 2014, with possible extensions based on an evaluation of the impact on access to care. On December 30, 2014, the CMS approved the extension of the NEMT waiver from January 1, 2015 through July 31, 2015.

This serves as the Department of Human Services' (DHS) notice of the request to extend the NEMT waiver after July 31, 2015, with a **30-day public comment period, which closes May 24, 2015, at 4:30 pm.**

As required by 42 CFR § 440.386, DHS also provides notice that this change will not impede EPSDT eligible individuals from having access to the full EPSDT benefit available at 42 CFR § 440.345.

Information about the Iowa Health and Wellness Plan and the NEMT waiver is available at: <http://dhs.iowa.gov/ime/about/iowa-health-and-wellness-plan>.

Written comments may be addressed to Nick Peters, Department of Human Services, Iowa Medicaid Enterprise, 100 Army Post Road, Des Moines, IA 50315. Comments may also be sent to the attention of: **DHS, Iowa Health and Wellness Plan** at:

DHSIMEHealthandWellnesPlan@dhs.state.ia.us through May 24, 2015. The public, by contacting Nick Peters at the above address, may review comments received.

Submitted by:
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